Message Text

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SUBJECT:HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP ASSESSMENT OF BELGRADE CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 44036

FOLLOWING, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP'S INTERIM ASSESSMENT OF BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE GROUP TO PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS IN THE USSR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOVEMBER 21, 1978

TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS

WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS AT THE BELGRADE

CONFERENCE WITH STRAINED ATTENTION. THE DISCUSSION OF THE HUMANITARIAN ARTICLES OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT WHICH HAS BEGUN AT THE CONFERENCE IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE. EVENTS AT BELGRADE ARE MEETING WITH ANIMATED DISCUSSION IN THE PRESS WORLD-WIDE, AND ARE SUBJECTED TO THE MOST CONTRADICTORY EVALUATIONS. THIS, APPARENTLY, IS CAUSED BY THE EXTRAORDINARY NATURE OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT-THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

THE CALL FOR THE INVIOLABILITY OF POST-WAR BORDERS AND A SERIES OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT CONSTITUTE CONSIDERABLE CONCESSIONS OF THE WEST TO THE SOVIETS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HUMANITARIAN PROVISIONS--IN PARTICULAR PRINCIPLE VII OF THE FIRST SECTION--PRESENT THE WEST WITH DEFINITE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK TOWARD A GREATER OPENNESS AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES--NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THE GUARANTEE OF AN UNWAIVERING PEACE BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST. THE FINAL ACT'S AFFIRMATION OF THE UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE.

THE POTENTIAL CONTAINED IN THE HUMANITARIAN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT HAS, IN OUR OPINION, BEEN FURTHER REINFORCED SINCE THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE.

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ONE OF THE FACTORS BEARING UPON THIS POTENTIAL HAS BEEN THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT CARTER--A DECISIVE ONE WHICH MERITS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT--WHO PROCLAIMED THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD TO BE THE MORAL FOUNDATION OF US POLICY. THE SECOND FACTOR: THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE--THE MANIFESTATION OF NEW FORMS OF THIS MOVEMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND THE USSR. THE THIRD FACTOR: SHIFTS IN PUBLIC OPINION IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. WE VALUE HIGHLY THE SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE PARLIAMENTS, TRADE UNIONS AND SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES.

FOR THE MOST PART, IT SHOULD ALREADY BE CLEAR WHETHER WESTERN POLITICAL LEADERS AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UTILIZE FULLY THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY. THIS IS WHY THE CONFERENCE IS OF SUCH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

IN THIS DOCUMENT WE STATE OUR OPINIONS ON ISSUES WE BELIEVE TO BE GERMANE TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

WE ESPECIALLY UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT PRINCIPLE VII OF SECTION ONE OF THE FINAL ACT MAKES DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS. THIS REFERENCE ENTRUSTS THE

BELGRADE CONFERENCE NOT ONLY WITH THE RIGHT BUT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO EXAMINE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO THE EXTENT ENCOMPASSED BY THESE DOCUMENTS, INDEPENDENT OF THE FACT THAT CERTAIN PROVISIONS ARE NOT REPEATED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE ACT. WE FURTHER UNDERSCORE THAT TO NEGATE THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE'S RIGHT TO REVIEW HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE FINAL ACT ON THE PRETEXT OF "INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OTHER COUNTRIES" WOULD HAVE EQUAL FORCE TO NEGATING THE INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE FINAL ACT IN GENERAL.

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH THE POSITION OF WESTERN COUNTRIES AS IT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED UP UNTIL NOW? WE REGRET WE MUST EXPRESS A FEW RESERVATIONS. THE US AND CERTAIN SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (IN PARTICULAR, THE NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN AND OTHERS) HAVE TAKEN SUFFICIENTLY CONSISTENT POSITIONS. (HOWEVER--ED.) MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE NOT AS YET PUT FORWARD ANY CONSISTENT POSITION, CONSEQUENTLY HAMPERING THE WORK OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH INSIST ON THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN ARTICLES OF THE FINAL ACT.

WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT A DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE NOT BE LIMITED SIMPLY TO GENERAL FORMMULATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH HAVE MORE OR LESS FALLEN INTO THE FIELD OF VISION OF WESTERN DELEGATIONS ACCIDENTALLY. THESE ARE SOMETIMES VERY IMPORTANT, SOMETIMES SECONDARY. A PRINCIPLED EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION AS A WHOLE IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.-USING THE ENTIRE MASS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DELEGATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE 23 DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE GROUP TO PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS IN THE USSR. IT IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO STIPULATE EXTENSIVE MEASURES TO CORRECT INADEQUACIES OF A GENERAL NATURE AS WELL AS ALL CONCRETE FACTUAL VIOLATIONS.

THE DISCUSSION SHOULD NOT TAKE ON THE NATURE OF MUTUAL OFFENSIVE REPROACHES AND DEMAGOGUERY, BUT THE POSITION OF WESTERN DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY FIRM AND DECISIVE. THE SOVIET UNION MAY THREATEN TO BREAK OFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON THE PRETEXT OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, A THREAT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN USED IN A VEILED FORM. WE THINK THE CHANCES OF THE SOVIET UNION ACTUALLY DOING SO ARE SLIM, SINCE ITS OWN INTERESTS WOULD BE STRONGLY AFFECTED. BUT IF THE CONFERENCE DOES INDEED BREAK DOWN IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE A MISFORTUNE--A LENGTHY BUT, NONETHELESS, TEMPORARY SETBACK ON THE HISTORICALLY UNAVOIDABLE PATH OF

DETENTE. BUT IT IS OUR DEEPEST CONVICTION IT WOULD BE AN EVEN GREATER MISFORTUNE, A CATASTROPHE WITH ALMOST IRREPARABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND, TO CAPITULATE AND MEET WITH INDECISIVENESS THIS SORT OF BLACKMAIL AND ANY OTHER THREATS.

IN OUR OPINION, THREE GROUPS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS SHOULD BE REVIEWED AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

I. THOSE AFFECTING WIDE GROUPS OF THE POPULATION AND OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THESE GROUPS. THESE ARE:

- 1) VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS, THE RIGHT OF THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE, THE RIGHT TO PREACH RELIGIOUS FAITH. THE PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS WHICH REFUSE TO ACCEPT SUCH VIOLATIONS IS WELL KNOWN. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BELIEVERS IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, JUDICIAL AND PSYCHIATRIC REPRESSIONS, THE TAKING AWAY OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS--THESE ARE THE MOST WIDELY-KNOWN FORMS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.
- 2) THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ONE'S COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE. THE VIOLATION OF THIS PARTICULAR RIGHT HAS A DECISIVE SIGNIFICANCE IN THE USSR IN THAT IT AFFECTS THE RELEASE OF CITIZENS FROM THE BONDS OF ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT CONTROL AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISH-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES. WE HAVE EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION ON THIS VIOLATION, BUT WE WILL ONLY NOTE A FEW ASPECTS HERE:

SOVIET AGENCIES WHICH DEAL WITH EMIGRATION CONSCIOUSLY AND CARELESSLY LIMIT THE CONTENTS OF THE "BASKET III" PROVISION ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION. THE

MORE UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO CHOOSE ONE'S COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE--STIPULATED IN THE UN UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS BOTH RATIFIED BY THE USSR AND PRINCIPLE VII OF THE FIRST SECTION OF THE FINAL ACT-- IS IGNORED SINCE APPLICATIONS TO EMIGRATE FROM THE USSR ARE REVIEWED ONLY IF THE APPLICANT PRESENTS AN INVITATION SENT BY RELATIVES. THIS IS IN TOTAL CONTRADICTION WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENTS. MOREOVER, OVIR (THE VISA AGENCY) HAS TAKEN ON ITSELF THE RIGHT TO DEFINE KINSHIP TIES. IN CERTAIN CASES OVIR EMPLOYEES USE THE PHRASE "DENIED ON THE BASIS OF HELSINKI" TO SIGNIFY INSUFFICIENTLY CLOSE KINSHIP TIES (IN THE OPINION OF OVIR).

THIS PRACTICE CREATES INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES FOR THOSE WISHING TO EMIGRATE. AND THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT EVEN COUNTED AMONG THE NUMBERS WISHING TO DO SO SINCE THEIR CASES ARE NOT REFLECTED IN ANY DOCUMENTS. GROUNDLESS VISA DENIALS EVEN WITH INVITATIONS ('VYZOVS"), ABUSE OF THE DENIALS ON THE GROUNDS OF SECRECY, CONSTANT CASES OF TIE-UPS OF INVITATIONS IN THE MAILS, REPRESSION OF THOSE WISHING TO EMIGRATETHESE ARE ALL ASPECTS OF THE SAME PROBLEM.

3) THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS PROHIBIT FORCED LABOR.
THE WIDESCALE USE OF FORCED LABOR IN PLACES OF
DETENTION IN THE USSR IS A VIOLATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS
AND, ALONG WITH IT, ACCORDING TO PRINCIPLE VII OF
THE FINAL ACT, DEMANDS EXAMINATION AT THE BELGRADE
CONFERENCE. THE FORCED LABOR OF PRISONERS AND OF
THOSE SO-CALLED "FREE ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY ARE
OBLIGED TO WORK" IS PARTICULARLY WIDELY ADOPTED IN
DISTANT REGIONS OF THE NORTH AND THE EAST IN DIFFICULT
CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AND (SUBJECT TO) THE ARBITRARINESS
OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

- 4) VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AREA OF NATIONALITY PROBLEMS. ONE OF THE EXAMPLES OF THIS IS THE RIGHT OF THE CRIMEAN TATAR PEOPLE TO LIVE IN THE CRIMEA--A RIGHT WHICH HAS BEEN CRUELLY AND ILLEGALLY FLOUTED BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR OVER 30 YEARS. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IS ANOTHER WIDELY KNOWN EXAMPLE.
- II. ANOTHER GROUP OF VIOLATIONS OF THE FINAL ACT RELATES TO THOSE ARTICLES OF THE BASKET III WHICH HAVE

THE PURPOSE OF EASING CONTACTS AMONG PEOPLE AND OF WIDENING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

1) THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT AT ALL IN THE EXPANSION AND FACILITATION OF TOURIST AND OTHER FOREIGN TRAVEL AS ENVISAGED IN THE FINAL ACT. WITHOUT DOUBT, THE HELSINKI SPIRIT PARTIALLY CONTRADICTS THE PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS OF THE AUTHORITIES TO LIMIT FOREIGN TOURISTS IN THE USSR AND SOVIETS ABROAD IN THEIR CONTACT WITH THE (LOCAL) POPULATION.-FOR EXAMPLE, BY ALLOWING FOREIGN TOURISTS TO LIVE ONLY IN HOTELS AND NOT WITH FAMILIES, THEY SET ARTIFICIALLY NARROW LIMITS ON THE POSSIBLE VOLUME OF TOURISM AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR (GAINING) KNOWLEDGE OF THE WAY OF LIFE AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE POPULATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 2) THE EXTREME DIFFICULTIES OF FAMILY CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO OTHER COUNTRIES IS A VERY SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE FINAL ACT.
- 3) THE FINAL ACT ENVISAGES THE EXPANSION AND FACILITATION OF PRINTED PERIODICALS, INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, FILM AND TELEVISION FILMS, RECORDED INFORMATION, AND A BROADER EXCHANGE OF RADIO INFORMATION. THE SITUATION IN THIS AREA REMAINS COMPLETELY UNSATISFACTORY.
- III. THE THIRD GROUP OF PROBLEMS IS CONNECTED WITH POLITICAL REPRESSIONS WHICH REPRESENT AN ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS--A VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLE VII OF THE FINAL ACT. POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE USSR ARE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE WHO REJECT THE USE OF FORCE AND WHO ARE REPRESSED FOR THEIR NON-VIOLENT EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION.
- 1) RECENTLY, THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THE REPRESSIONS AGAINST 13 MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET GROUPS TO PROMOTE OBSERVANCE OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS: IN MOSCOW, IN THE UKRAINE, IN GEORGIA AND LITHUANIA--AGAINST ORLOV, GINZBURG, SHCHARANSKY, LANDA, SEREBROV, TYKHY, RUDENKO, MARYNOVYCH, MATUSEVYCH, GAMSAKHURDIA, KOSTAVA, PAILODZE, PETKUS, AND GAJAUSKAS. LANDA, SEREBROV, RUDENKO AND TYKHY HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUT ON TRIAL AND, WE ARE CONVINCED, RECEIVED COMPLETELY UNJUST SENTENCES.

RUDENKO AND TYKHY GOT PARTICULARLY SEVERE SENTENCES--LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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12 AND 15 YEARS, RESPECTIVELY. THE OTHERS AWAIT TRIAL IN COMPLETE ISOLATION FROM THE WORLD IN PRE-TRIAL DETENTION PRISONERS. THESE REPRESSIONS AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF THE HELSINKI GROUPS AREADIRECT CHALLENGE TO THOSE WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH SIGNED THE FINAL ACT--IT IS AN ACID TEST OF THEIR DETERMINATION TO DEFEND THESE PROCLAIMED PRINCIPLES. IT IS A MATTER OF HONOR FOR-THESE COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF ALL OF THOSE ARRESTED AND SENTENCED. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NONE OF THESE PRISONERS IS ALLOWED TO BECOME THE TARGET OF OFFICIAL REPRISAL IN ORDER TO FRUSTRATE THE AUTHORITIES' OBVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE THEM SO THAT THEY RECEIVE VARYING DEGREES OF SUPPORT. ONE MUST ALSO STRESS THAT THE REPRESSIONS AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF THE HELSINKI GROUPS AREONLY A SMALL PART OF ALL THE POLITICAL REPRESSIONS IN THE USSR. TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE, THE HELSINKI GROUP ITSELF WAS FORMED TO DEFEND POLITICAL PRISONERS. IT IS NOT BEYOND THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE, THAT THE REPRESSIONS AGAINST THE HELSINKI GROUPS WERE THOUGHT UP BY THE AUTHORITIES AS A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC, PUTTING THE WEST IN A DIFFICULT POSITION IN WHICH THE PROBLEM (OF WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONERS--ED.)--HAVING AGAIN SPRUNG UP--PARALYZES THEIR EFFORTS AS HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST. THIS DANGER MUST BE AVERTED.

2) MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE USSR AND IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS ARE WIDELY KNOWN TO THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND, IN PART, TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. PROBABLY, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE TO ASK THAT AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR AN OFFICIAL REPORT ON POLITICAL REPRESSIONS IN ALL THE COUNTRIES WHICH SIGNED THE FINAL ACT. SUCH A REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE A LIST OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRISONERS OF SPECIAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THEIR CASE AND THE SITUATION IN THEIR PLACE OF IMPRISONMENT.

3) VIOLATIONS OF PRINCIPLE VII OF THE FINAL ACT ARE REPRESSION FOR DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION ON THE VIOLATION OF

THESE RIGHTS. AMONG THOSE WHO ARE IN CAMPS AND PRISONS (LIVING) UNDER EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS WHICH SHOULD NOT EXIST IN OUR TIMES AND AMONG THOSE WHO ARE IN EXILE ARE SUCH LEADING FIGURES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE USSR AS SERGEI KOVALEV, SEMEN GLUZMAN, ANATOLY MARCHENKO, MALVA LANDA, ANDREI TVERDOKHLEBOV, AND DOZENS OF OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE NO LESS DESERVING OF THE DEEPEST ADMIRATION.

- 4) VIOLATIONS OF THE FINAL ACT ARE REPRESSION FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY. AMONG THOSE WHO ARE IMPRISONED ARE GEORGI VINS, VASILI ROMANYUK AND MANY OTHERS
- 5) VIOLATIONS OF THE FINAL ACT ARE REPRESSION FOR VARIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF CRITICISM AND ALSO FOR THE NON-VIOLENT DEFENSE OF THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THEIR PEOPLES. THESE ARE THE MOST NUMEROUS--ALONG WITH THE RELIGIOUS--CATEGORIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS.
- 6) SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS TAKE
 PLACE IN REGARD TO PERSONS WHO ARE REPRESSED FOR
 THEIR ATTEMPTS TO REALIZE THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS TO LEAVE
 THE COUNTRY. AMONG THEM ARE THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE
 SO-CALLED "LENINGRAD HIGHJACKING CASE" WHO WERE SENTENCED
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TO LONG TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT UNDER THE UNLAWFUL CHARGE OF BETRAYING THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY--ALTMAN, BUTMAN, THE ZALMANSON BROTHERS, KUZMETSOV, DYMSHITS, MENDELEVICH, MURZHENKO, FEDOROV, KHHOKH. THE SAME CHARGE IS HELD AGAINST MANY OTHERS, INCLUDING FEDORENKO AND ZOSIMOV. OF THOSE WHO DESIRE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, VERY MANY ARE HELD IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS.

- 7) PETR RUBAN IS IMPRISONED FOR HAVING MADE A SOUVENIR GIFT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
- 8) WE CALL ON THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE TO SPEAK OUT SEPARATELY IN DEFENSE OF THOSE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO ARE IN PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. AMONG THEM ARE MYKOLA RUDENKO, AN INVALID OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR; MERAB KOSTAVA AND ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA, WHO ARE THREATENED WITH PSYCHIATRIC PRISON; AND MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO ARE EXTREMELY ILL--WE WILL NAME SERGEENKO, GINZBURG, SHUMUK AND SHAKHVERDYAN. PLAKHOTNYUK, PRISONER IN A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, IS VERY ILL--HE WAS SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING "THE UKRAINIAN HERALD."

WE ASK THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE WITH THE GREATEST SERIOUSNESS THE QUESTIONS

AS MUCH AS WE COULD -- RAISET IN THIS APPEAL.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO PROMOTE OBSERVANCE OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS IN THE USSR: ELENA BONNER, PETR GRIGORENKO, NAUM MEIMAN, TATIANA OSIPOVA, VIKTOR NEKIPELOV, VLADIMIR SLEPAK.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXT OF THIS APPEAL: ANDREI SAKHAROV, TATIANA VELIKANOVA, ALEKSANDR LAVUT, VLADIMIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BORISOV.

MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF BELIEVERS IN THE USSR: FATHER GLEB YAKUNIN, ARCHDEACON VARSONOFILI KHAIBULIN, VIKTOR KAPITANCHUK.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE ABUSE OF PSYCHIATRY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES: VYACHESLAV BAKHMIN, ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FREE ADVENTISTS: ROSTISLAV GALETSKY, V.A. SHELKOV. END TEXT. VANCE

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